

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/c.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, November 8, 2012

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Chief of Police/Administration
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin

NOT PRESENT:

Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

Trustee Dennis Schermerhorn

Trustee Matt Walsh

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”*.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Andrews reported that the election primary was held on Tuesday, November 6th including various local issues that were placed on the ballot. He noted there were two local referenda on the November 6th ballot. The electric aggregation referendum was approved by the voters of Indian Head Park and the revenue referendum was not approved by the majority of voters. Mayor Andrews stated approval of the revenue referendum would have allowed the Village a one-time increase in the property tax extension limitation law; however, that referendum did not pass. Mayor Andrews stated as a long time resident of the Village he is disappointed that residents of the Village did not support the revenue referendum that was an investment in their own community, residents may be satisfied that the Board is doing a good job in running the Village with what it has to work with and there have been some difficult times and challenges for the Board. Mayor Andrews stated people may be concerned with what is going on in Washington with gridlock and issues in Springfield and the reaction is to maybe express displeasure at the local level such that the referendum did not pass.

Mayor Andrews stated at the last meeting he reported the continuation of the Sound Abatement Wall project along I-294 and Plainfield Road was approved by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. He noted there is a final approval that is needed before the contractor can begin to fabricate the sections of wall to finish the project which may take up to ten weeks.

Mayor Andrews stated on October 27th he attended the dedication of the Village memorial for Kelli Joy O’Laughlin at Sacajawea Park, it was a very well done ceremony and he enjoyed the music by the high school students.

Mayor Andrews stated it is hard to believe a year has gone by and the Village is still short one full-time police officer with no prospect of hiring someone to fill that position. Mayor Andrews further stated that he would like to thank Police Chief Alonzo and the police officers for their hard work and dedication especially last year to follow up on all the clues and evidence leading up to the arrest of the person who was charged in the homicide of Kelli O’Laughlin. Mayor Andrews stated before that horrible event happened there were residents in the community that were suggesting to disband the local police department. Mayor Andrews mentioned that the town of Winfield passed a non-binding resolution asking residents whether or not to keep their police department and a binding resolution would have been a property tax levy in order to fund the police department. In that community 85% of those residents voted to keep the police department and 65% voted no to a property tax levy to fund the police department.

Mayor Andrews stated winter is almost here and Indian Head Park is fortunate to have four dedicated public works employees to keep the streets safe and clean during bad weather conditions. He pointed out year after year the public works employees are out clearing streets even at times when families are enjoying their holiday dinner with their families.

Mayor Andrews stated Veteran’s Day will be observed next week and he commended all who are serving or have served in the armed forces.

Mayor Andrews stated Tom Brescia, the Village’s Prosecuting Attorney, is present this evening and the Board will be considering his reappointment for another one year term as the Village’s Prosecuting Attorney. Mayor Andrews remarked that Mr. Brescia has been doing an outstanding job for the Village and recommends his reappointment.

AGING WELL INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Trustee Norm Schnaufer reported that several representatives from the Aging Well Initiative team, including a couple of residents of Indian Head Park are present this evening. He noted the mission of Aging Care Connections is to enrich the quality of life of older adults and their families through a range of programs and services that enhance their well being and independence.

Michael Doepke, on behalf of Aging Care Connections thanked the Village of Indian Head Park for their continued support of older adults in the community in addressing aging issues.

He presented a distinguished traveling trophy award to the Village of Indian Head Park to recognize the members of the Indian Head Park/Western Springs action team of the Aging Well Program. Mr. Doepke stated that Aging Well is a program of Aging Care Connections, The program was started eleven years ago to help create elder friendly communities throughout the Lyons/Riverside and Proviso Townships by initiating programs for older adults in each community to help share information about aging issues and resources. Mr. Doepke stated that each community action team was recognized for their time, talent and efforts at the Aging Care Connections Annual Luncheon event. He noted during this event, a traveling trophy was established to be passed to each community action team to be displayed for one month as a representation of a significant value that each community brings to older adults.

Representatives from Aging Care Connections thanked the following Aging Well Community Action Team of Indian Head Park/Western Springs – Norm Schnauffer, Lou Crotty, Saally Mitchell, Aileen Henkel and Joe Miks. Mayor Andrews and the Village Board thanked all members of the Aging Well Community Action Team for their efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

*Approval of a Supplemental Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways for the Period of May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 (**Resolution #R11-12-1**)*

*Approval of a Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways for the Period of May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013 (**Resolution #R11-12-2**)*

*Approval of a Resolution Determining the Estimated Property Taxes to be Levied for the 2012 Tax Year for the Village of Indian Head Park (**Resolution #R11-12-3**)*

Reappointment of Thomas Brescia as the Village's Prosecuting Attorney for the term ending November 13, 2013

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (4/0/2).

Ayes: Trustees: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Schnauffer

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Schermerhorn, Trustee Walsh

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – October 11, 2012

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to approve the October 11, 2012 Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4/0/2).

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Bob Bersin, of the Acacia Association Board, inquired when the electric aggregation process will be implemented since the Acacia Board is looking into this matter also. Mayor Andrews asked Counsel Rich Ramello to provide an overview as to the process now that the electric aggregation referendum was approved by the voters.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Electric Aggregation

Counsel Rich Ramello stated with the passage of the referendum last Tuesday, the next step for the Village is to adopt an ordinance approving the municipal aggregation program for the Village. He noted as part of the program under Illinois State Statute, the Village is required to adopt a plan of governance which is a public document plan that explains and sets forth how the electrical aggregation will proceed. Counsel Ramello stated the electrical aggregation program proceeds with the Village seeking bids for electrical suppliers to supply electricity to the individual residences and small businesses. He noted there would be an opt-out program generally by default and it would be all of the people that do not take steps to not use that electrical supplier that wins the bid would be included in the program. Counsel Ramello stated if someone decides they want to stay with Exelon who currently is the supplier for Commonwealth Edison or chooses some other supplier, they would have to send a notice in that they do not want to use the electrical supplier that is selected as the lowest bidder through the aggregation program.

Counsel Ramello stated that Commonwealth Edison no longer generates electricity and they are solely a distributor of electricity. He added that Commonwealth Edison only operates the wire and poles that deliver the electricity and Exelon as well as other companies supply electricity to Commonwealth Edison which they in turn distribute to individuals. Counsel Ramello stated under the electric aggregation program residents and businesses will still receive their utility bill from Commonwealth Edison and there will be a line item for whoever the supplier will be. He added that prior to the adoption of the plan of governance, the statute requires the Village conduct two public hearings on the matter in which the public can provide comments and input regarding any pros or con with the electrical aggregation. Counsel Ramello stated (1) notice of the public hearings will be published in the newspaper at least two weeks prior to the date of the hearing; (2) after the hearings are concluded the Village Board will decide on a plan of governance; (3) the plan will then come before the Board for approval; (4) bid specifications will be prepared and submitted to the electric suppliers who have registered through the Commerce Commission to be an approved supplier; (5) bids that were submitted by electrical suppliers are opened and a bidder will be selected. It does not need to be the lowest bidder; (6) some renewable energy requirements may be listed in the bid specifications that the energy be generated locally rather than nationally; (7) the Board will select the electrical supplier and they will then contact Commonwealth Edison who provide that electrical supplier with a list of customers that are currently being served by Commonwealth Edison; (8) the electrical supplier will then send out notices advising all of these customers of the fact that they have been chosen as the electrical supplier. Opt-out procedures will be detailed in the notice should someone decide they do not want to participate in the program; (9) once the opt-out period has ended, the electrical supplier will determine a cut-over date from Commonwealth Edison's supplier to a new electrical supplier and; (10) the Village may enter into a one, two or three year contract with an electrical supplier.

Mayor Andrews asked if provisions could be included in a new electrical supplier contract to waive cancellation fees or penalties should someone who joins the program but later decides for whatever reason they want to opt out. Counsel Ramello stated provisions could be included in the contract. He noted the Illinois Commerce Commission held a hearing to begin the rule making process to adopt rules with regard to municipal aggregation programs that may include elimination of cancellation fees. Counsel Ramello stated Commonwealth Edison has a year to year contract with the company that provides the electric supply to them at a certain rate.

Mayor Andrews asked if at some point the electric rate is lower through the electric supplier chosen by Commonwealth Edison can the Village receive the same lower electric rate.

Counsel Ramello stated some electric suppliers may be reluctant to bid on short term contracts or special provisions. However, some municipalities have provided in their contract language that if the ComEd rate goes lower than the electrical supplier rate, people can opt out of the aggregation program without a cancellation fee.

Trustee Bailey stated an article appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* that answered many questions people might have if the electric aggregation was approved in their community. Counsel Ramello stated that the electric aggregation process takes time to be implemented once it is approved by the voters. Trustee Bermier mentioned she has received many automated message phone calls from electric suppliers before the election and residents should be careful not to give out personal information over the phone. Trustee Anselmo stated the electric aggregation process has been a smooth transition in many communities that have already implemented the program for their residents. Mayor Andrews stated the Board will move forward on the electric aggregation process now that it has been approved by the voters. He noted a better electric rate might be received if there are more people to participate in the program. Counsel Ramello pointed out that if someone already entered into a contract individually with another electric supplier before the Village's program is implemented, that person would automatically be opted out of the Village's electric aggregation program.

Bob Bersin stated the Acacia Association already has three bids from electrical suppliers and is checking into the possibility of lower rates. Counsel Ramello stated the Village must follow the proper process to publish and conduct two public hearings as required by the electric aggregation referendum requirements. Mayor Andrews asked if the Board is required to take any action on the electric aggregation after the first public hearing. Counsel Ramello stated no Board action would be taken until the second public hearing has been concluded. He pointed out the purpose of the hearing process is to receive public comments, to discuss whether renewable energy should be included in the request for proposals from electric suppliers and other bid requirements as well as to discuss and establish the plan of governance process regarding how the program will work.

Mayor Andrews asked Trustee Brian Bailey and Trustee Dennis Schermerhorn to work with Village counsel to work on the details to begin the public hearing process.

2. Village Finances

Mayor Andrews stated the topic of Village finances was included on the agenda due to the revenue referendum that was placed on the ballot at the November election. He noted the revenue referendum did not pass. However, the Board will continue to do its best to strive to find other ways to reduce costs to the Village and to increase revenues as a non-home rule community. Mayor Andrews stated possibly there may be some interest for development of vacant property in the commercial district area that could be explored to generate revenue. However, there is no one thing that would be a cure-all to generate enough revenue as a small community.

Mayor Andrews stated no one likes property tax increases but he commended the Board to have the courage to put their neck on the line to get behind a proposal to try to find a way to increase revenue. Mayor Andrews stated although there are a few residents in attendance at some meetings, many residents do not attend the meetings and may not grasp that the Board faces difficult challenges when trying to balance Village finances and to accomplish other projects. He added that the Board has always prioritized and has eliminated other expenses over the years. Mayor Andrews stated pay raises for employees were frozen for three years and other miscellaneous expenses were cut from the budget. Mayor Andrews stated he is disappointed for the community that the referendum did not pass. Some view the negative vote as a vote against their own home town. Mayor Andrews cautioned eventually everything needs to be fixed and the longer the wait, the more it will cost.

Trustee Bermier stated a recent article in a newspaper mentioned that Villages are now getting creative on how to generate revenue. She noted the Village of St. Charles asked the residents to submit ideas how to generate revenue and about 125 ideas were presented and that Burr Ridge did not have funds to buy a police car so they asked residents to donate money. Donations were received and a police vehicle was purchased in that town.

Mayor Andrews recognized Mr. Metz, who was present in the audience and asked if he had any ideas how to raise money. Mr. Metz asked the Board if they had an idea why the revenue referendum did not pass twice on the ballot.

Mayor Andrews stated the Board has been through some very tough economic times over the years to try to balance the budget, three years ago there was a \$60,000 budget deficit, the next year an approximate \$125,000 deficit, and last year due to the Village Board of Trustees cost cutting measures such as freezing pay raises and cutting many expenses, the budget was almost balanced. Mayor Andrews said that one way to view it is that reflects a good job by the Board.

Mr. Metz stated there may be more reasons why residents did not vote to approve the revenue referendum. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board understands that many people are struggling with the same budget issues at home that the Village is having at the municipal level, it is the Board's responsibility to inform the public of the financial situation and try to address it and the Board relies on input from the residents. Mayor Andrews pointed out the Board placed a question on the ballot in March asking for more money to increase revenues in the police fund and it was a surprise to learn that the police part was voted down after having burglaries and a homicide in our Village.

Mrs. Metz stated the Indian Head Park Homeowners Association printed a newsletter with their opinion of the pros and cons of the revenue referendum, not everyone is a member of the association but the information provided a point of view from a perspective, everyone has their own reasons for voting for or against the referendum and the Board should not dismiss another perspective because they may not agree with it. Mrs. Metz suggested the Board respond to the newsletter opinion.

Mrs. Metz stated she feels more transparency in the budget would be helpful as well as a financial plan for the Village which might help residents decide whether they want to pay more money. Mayor Andrews stated that the Board considers all input and that the budget projects out several years for planning purposes.

Mayor Andrews stated the budget is on-line on the Village's Website. Mrs. Metz stated she reviewed the budget and feels it is not self-explanatory. Mayor Andrews stated there are many meetings on the budget throughout the year including the public hearing on the Appropriations Ordinance when residents have opportunities to ask questions about the budget and the Board would do its best to answer them.

Lori Davis, of Apache Drive, asked how the salaries of employees compare to salaries of employees in other Villages.

Mayor Andrews stated the Indian Head Park Homeowners Association newsletter regarding salaries was disingenuous in light of the fact that the salaries included overtime for officers during the homicide and burglaries in the Village last year. He added those salaries included regular pay, overtime, vacation time and holiday pay. Mayor Andrews stated the police department has a small staff of officers, if someone is called to work on the Suburban Crimes Task Force, coverage is needed to fill that gap at the local level.

Mayor Andrews pointed out the Suburban Crimes Task Force helped Indian Head Park and sent manpower to help with the homicide last year. He added that many Indian Head Park salaries are on the low end of the scale, there is no deputy police chief, no captains, no lieutenants and no detectives. The Village has three police sergeants that are working sergeants that are out on patrol and they also complete administrative paperwork and perform other duties. Mayor Andrews stated that the Public Works Department has a three man crew and a superintendent to manage all the streets and watermains in the Village. At times, staff is on-call and needed after hours which would be overtime. Mayor Andrews stated the Village has saved money over the past few years by working on many of the watermain and sewer issues in-house instead of contracting the work out for repairs. He noted at times, outside contractors are needed with special equipment to restore the service.

Trustee Bermier stated over the years the Village has lost good police officers and public works employees to other Villages because the salaries were better. She noted the Village is not paying over and above more than other Villages for salaries. Trustee Bailey stated anyone could go to another Village Hall and look at how many people are working on the offices. He stated Kathy Leach juggles many responsibilities including Deputy Clerk, Freedom of Information Officer, building and zoning, newsletter, recording secretary and other administrative responsibilities, Dave Brink manages the finance department and also maintains and updates the Village Website and programs the cable channel and Mary Crowley handles water billing and other administrative duties. Trustee Bailey stated other towns may have one person dedicated to a certain duty. He added the administration office staff does a fantastic job and is well worth the pay they get.

Mrs. Metz stated that in her opinion the Village of Burr Ridge and Willow Springs have very good websites that make more information available to the public. Mrs. Metz stated she would like to obtain information on the individual breakdown of the employee salaries with an explanation of the pay.

Mayor Andrews stated that he would like to have a better Website also but that it is not affordable at this time but is something the Board will look to in the future. Mayor Andrews further stated that the Village Administration appreciates the residents input through the ballot regarding revenue and will do its best going forward.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Bermier, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:55 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4/0/2).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Leach, Deputy Village Clerk/Recording Secretary